

REMARKS

The examiner held claim 5, dependent on claim 1 and intervening claim 4, to contain allowable subject matter. Claim 1 is amended to include all of the limitations of claims 4 and 5, and claims 4 and 5 are cancelled. Similarly, the examiner held claim 27, dependent on claim 12 and intervening claim 13, to contain allowable subject matter. Claim 12 is therefore amended to include all of the limitations of claims 13 and 27, and claims 13 and 27 are cancelled.

In response to the requirement to elect a species of tensioning devices dated June 17, 2005, claims 16 and 19 were withdrawn from consideration until such time as a generic claim was found to be allowable. Similarly, the non-elected species claim 23 was withdrawn from consideration until a generic claim for controlling the tensioning device was found to be allowable. Claim 14 is generic as to claims 16, 19, and 23. Claim 14, depending on currently amended claim 12 (including the limitations of allowed claim 27 and all intervening claims), is believed to be in an allowable state. Thus, claims 16, 19 and 23, re-presented for consideration herein, are also believed to be in an allowable state.

The applicant calls the examiner's attention to the third party submission under 37 CFR § 1.99, filed November 24, 2004, for consideration.

In summary, claims 1-3, 6-12, and 14-16 remain in the application and are in condition for allowance. Passage to issue is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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